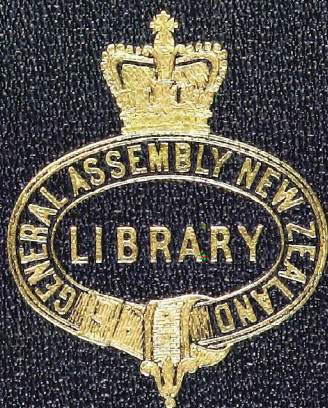

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PRÉCIS OF INFORMATION
CONCERNING
SOUTHERN RHODESIA.



COMPILED IN THE INTELLIGENCE DIVISION,
WAR OFFICE,

BY

MAJOR C. T. DAWKINS, C.M.G.,
Shropshire Light Infantry.

JANUARY, 1899

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P R E F A C E.

THIS *précis* of information has been compiled from official documents, the reports of well-known travellers, and other reliable sources.

It is particularly requested that readers will communicate to the Director of Military Intelligence any errors they may observe, or any additional information they may be able to afford.

J. C. ARDAGH,
D.M.I.

18, QUEEN ANNE'S GATE,
S.W.

12th May, 1899.

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PRÉCIS OF INFORMATION CONCERNING SOUTHERN RHODESIA.

CHAPTER I.

GEOGRAPHY, TOPOGRAPHY, &c.

THE term Southern Rhodesia denotes the territory under the administration of the British South Africa Company which lies to the south of the River Zambesi. Situation
and
boundaries

The limits of Southern Rhodesia are defined by the Order in Council of the 20th of October, 1898, to include the parts of South Africa bounded by the Portuguese Possessions, by the South African Republic to a point opposite to the mouth of the River Shashi, by the River Shashi to its junction with the Tati and Ramaquaban rivers, thence by the Ramaquaban river to its source, thence by the watershed of the Rivers Shashi and Ramaquaban until such watershed strikes the Hunter's Road (called the Pandamatanka Road), thence by that road to the River Zambesi, and by that river to the Portuguese boundary. These limits include an area of 10 miles' radius round Fort Tuli, but exclude the area of the Tati district; the territory of Southern Rhodesia thus defined covers an area of 174,738 square miles, and is divided into two great provinces: the western portion being styled Matabililand, and the eastern portion Mashonaland.

The greater part of the territory lies on a large plateau, a portion of the immense table-land which rises in the centre of South Africa, and has an average elevation of over 4,000 feet above the sea.

The actual levels of the more important points are as follows:—

Buluwayo	...	...	...	4,469 feet.
Charter ...	...	...	...	4,400 "
Salisbury	...	...	...	5,000 "
Umtali ...	...	...	...	4,000 "
Victoria ...	...	...	...	3,670 "

From the south and west the ascent to the plateau is gradual, and, as a rule, offers no great difficulties; but on the north and east the ground is broken, transit, except where roads have been made, is difficult, and the making of roads is an arduous and costly undertaking. Mr. Colquhoun describes the slopes on the east as

"abrupt and precipitous, forming a network of rugged hills. The rains are very severe along the broken edge of the plateau, due to the rain-laden clouds from the Indian Ocean being arrested by the buttress and thus precipitated."*

The lowest portions of the country are found in the valleys of the Zambesi and the Limpopo, Wankie's Town, situated on the Zambesi, about 160 miles north-west of Buluwayo, is only 1,670 feet above the sea level; Tuli, on the south, 1,750 feet. The average elevation of the low country between the Limpopo and Victoria is, however, stated to be 2,500 feet.

Watershed.

The great ridge or backbone of the plateau, which forms the dividing line of the waters, stretches diagonally across the territory from about 20 miles west of Buluwayo north-eastwards to Salisbury, and thence in a south-easterly direction to the sources of the Luenya and Odzi rivers. The streams running down from this watershed to the north and north-east empty themselves into the Zambesi, to the east and south into the Sabi and the Limpopo. It is stated that the rivers running north are as a rule "sand rivers," while those running to the east and south are generally well watered at all seasons of the year.

General character of Matabililand.

The country consists chiefly of what is known as high veld, well wooded, and studded with granite kopjes. The luxuriant vegetation gives abundant evidence of the richness of the soil, and the general appearance forms a delightful contrast to that of the arid plains of Bechuanaland. Mr. Knight gives the following description of the general view of Matabililand from the south-west :—

"The first glimpse of Matabililand as one emerges from the pass beyond Mangwe, on the northern road, is particularly pleasing, and gives one a fair idea of the general character of the high veld. As I saw it in early morning it was as delicious a scene as could well be imagined. From the ridge on which I stood I could see far over the country; isolated granite kopjes of curious formation, generally well wooded or covered with flowering bushes, and crowned at the top with great rocks, shaped like ruined castles, were scattered over the undulating veld, across which wound many streams of clear water, flowing over sandy beds; ranges of wooded hills hemmed in amphitheatres of rich pasture, full of a variety of beautiful flowers, the haunts of birds and gorgeous butterflies."

The western portion of Matabililand, lying between Buluwayo and Daka, is uninhabited, save by a few wandering bushmen. The soil in the valleys is rich, and the country well wooded and watered. It is, however, said to be malarious during the summer, and the presence of the Tsetse fly in patches renders it at present unsuitable for stock.

General character of Mashonaland.

The character of the plateau in Mashonaland is much the same as that of Matabililand, but the granite kopjes are frequently found of a curious shape, forming an almost perfect dome. They rise abruptly from the veld, and attain a considerable elevation. One of the most remarkable, named Mount Dombo, and situated in

* "Proceedings of Royal Colonial Institute," vol. xxv.

Makoni's country on the eastern edge of Mashonaland, was found by Selous to rise to a height of 700 feet above the plateau on which it stands. Another peculiar feature of the country is the enormous size of the ant-hills, some of them being from 60 to 80 feet in circumference, and between 20 and 30 feet high.

The north-eastern corner of Mashonaland is described as a rough and inhospitable country, almost destitute of water during the dry season, and infested in parts with the Tsetse fly.

South of this, on the eastern frontier between Mashonaland and the Portuguese Possessions, and just north of Umtali, lies the elevated plateau of Inyanga, the average height of which is about 6,000 feet above sea level. The soil is rich, and the well-sheltered valleys afford a fine grazing ground for cattle. The feature of this district is the remarkable system of irrigation which has been carried out at some remote period by a people who have since disappeared. By these people the whole of the mountain slopes have been systematically terraced out by means of stone retaining walls; and the water, of which there is an abundant supply from numerous springs on the mountains, was then conducted by means of artificial channels throughout the country.

At the south-western end of the watershed lie the hills known as the Matoppos, which commence near the border of the Tati district, and stretch to the vicinity of Gwelo. Mr. Sykes gives the following description of the range:—

MOUNTAINS
AND HILLS.

The Matop-
pos.

"The range of mountains known as the Matoppos Hills, consist of a series of mountain and hill groups extending in a north-easterly and south-westerly direction for about 120 miles, with an average breadth of 25 miles. The northern base of the Matoppos is, at its nearest point, 15 miles south-east of Buluwayo. These mountain and hill groups enclose hundreds of narrow and very fertile valleys, and the whole system is intersected by numerous watercourses and rivers.

"Most of the valleys are approached through very narrow defiles, only practicable for baggage and pack animals, and are, as a rule, connected with each other by a network of mountain passes, narrow gorges, and clefts in the hills. Ascending from the valleys on the various mountain slopes are tiers upon tiers of gigantic granite boulders, rising frequently to a height of from 2,000 to 3,000 feet. These huge blocks, thrown together as it were carelessly by the forces of nature, piled upon and leaning against each other at all angles, form hundreds and thousands of natural caves of all conceivable shapes and dimensions. In the crevices and openings between the boulders, a dense growth of stunted bush and thorny creepers have turned themselves into almost impenetrable entanglement, through which narrow winding foot-paths have been made by the natives, leading from cave to cave, from base to summit of the hills."*

From the above description, which applies more particularly to the western and central portions of the hills, the enormous natural strength of the position held by the Matabili during the late rebellion can easily be realized.

* Sykes, "With Plumer in Matabeleland."

The attacking force, struggling over kopjes honeycombed with caves, and through narrow gorges, choked with bush and boulders, found themselves exposed to a galling fire from unseen enemies; while the natives having an intimate knowledge of the locality, dodged rapidly along the narrow winding tracks from crevice to crevice and from kopje to kopje, or if hard pressed took refuge in some cave of which the very existence was unsuspected from outside.

The successful engagements which were fought in the Matoppos in the face of such tremendous disadvantages, reflect the greatest credit on the troops engaged, but they were totally ineffectual in dislodging the Matabili who maintained their position until the close of the operations.

Similar strongholds, though on a smaller scale exist to the east and north-east of Buluwayo. Of these, the most striking is Tabas-i-Mhamba, situated in a small range of hills about 65 miles from Buluwayo. This position was stormed and captured by a column under command of Lieut.-Colonel Plumer in July, 1896.

Two coach roads run through the Matoppos. The one from Palapye traverses the western end of the hills by the Mangwe Pass, the other from Tuli enters the range to the south-east of Buluwayo about 30 miles north of Mangi Nyama.

Mashabi or
Red Hills.

The Mashabi or Red Hills lie between Gwelo and Hartley Hill to the west of the true watershed. The range is composed of low hills, and is pierced by several valleys and poorts or passes.

Umoukwe
Mountains.
Makomi
Mountains.

From Hartley Hill the Umoukwe Mountains stretch northwards for about 100 miles, and from their north-eastern extremity the Makomi Mountains extend in an easterly direction to the vicinity of the Portuguese border.

Inyangani,
and Panha-
longa Moun-
tains.
Mountain
peaks.

On the eastern frontier to the north of Umtali, lie the Inyangani ranges, while the hills in the neighbourhood of Umtali itself are called the Panhalonga.

The most notable peaks are Mount Nani (Mt. Moltke), situated at the northern end of the Inyangani range, Mount Darwin 65 miles north-east of Salisbury, and Mount Dombo, 6,700 feet, about 40 miles north of Umtali, Mount Hampden, 5,500 feet, a few miles north-west of Salisbury, and Mount Wedza, 6,000 feet, between Charter and Umtali.

RIVERS.

The three great rivers of the territory which receive the waters of all the smaller streams are the Zambesi, the Sabi and the Limpopo.

Zambesi.

The Zambesi is the most magnificent of all South African rivers, and contains a large volume of water at all seasons of the year. It rises in Equatorial Africa, near Lake Dilolo and flows south through Barotseland to its junction with the Chobe, it then turns in an easterly and north-easterly direction, following the border of southern Rhodesia as far as Zumbo, and pursues its course through Portuguese territory to Tete; thence it bends to the south-east and finally empties itself into the Indian Ocean. Its average breadth during its passage along the border is about quarter of a mile, and it cannot be crossed at any point without the aid of boats. The river is navigable for boats of light

draught from its mouth up to the Kebrabasa rapids, which are situated a short distance above Tete, and canoes ply on its waters in the intervals between the various falls and rapids as high as Lialui in Barotseland. The world-famed Victoria Falls lie in the north-western corner of the territory at a distance of about 210 miles from Buluwayo.

The affluents which the Zambesi receives from southern Rhodesia are :—

The Guai with its tributaries the Khami, Ungusa, Bembezi, Bubi, and Shangani.

The Sengwe. —

The Omay.

The Umniati or Sanyati with its tributary the Umfuli.

The Angwe.

The Hanyani.

The Ruenya, with its tributary the Mazoe.

The three last rivers rise in British territory, but flow through the Portuguese Possessions before reaching the Zambesi.

The Sabi rises north of Charter and flows southwards till it meets the Lundi; then turning to the east, it passes through Portuguese territory to the Indian Ocean. This river drains the whole area between Salisbury and Victoria on the west, and the Portuguese frontier on the east. Its principal affluents are, from the west :—

The Merawi.

The Devule.

The Umshagashi or Mtelekwe.

The Lundi with its tributary the Tokwe.

From the east :—

The Masheki.

The Odzi.

On some maps the Sabi is shown as a sand river in its upper regions, but this is not true, at any rate as long as it runs through British territory; Selous, describing its appearance near Gato in the month of August, speaks of it as a really fine river, with a running stream over 100 yards wide, though the full breadth of the river bed was more than 300 yards. At its junction with the Lundi river, even at the driest time of year, it is a very broad, though shallow, stream. The drifts are practicable for wagons during the dry season, but in the rains, the river forms an impassable obstacle. It rises very rapidly, and remains in flood for weeks. The bottom is alternately rocky and sandy, the banks covered with a thick bush and from 10 to 20 feet above the river bed.

The Limpopo or Crocodile river, ranks next to the Zambesi among the South African rivers, and is remarkable for the eccentricity of its course, which runs in turn to nearly all the points of the compass. Rising in the South African Republic, not far from Pretoria, it flows in a north-westerly direction to the border of the Bechuanaland Protectorate, thence north-east to its junc-

tion with the Shashi at the south-western corner of Southern Rhodesia. From this point it runs nearly due east to the Portuguese Possessions forming the boundary between Southern Rhodesia and the South African Republic, and then turning to the south, eventually reaches the Indian Ocean about 80 miles north of Delagoa Bay.

The river contains a good stream of water at all seasons of the year, the bottom is sandy, the banks lined with reeds and infested with crocodiles.

It is crossed by drifts at several points, the principal ones being :—

1. Rhodes Drift, situated on the road from Pietersburg to Buluwayo, the banks are steep and the bottom of deep sand. A pont to facilitate crossing has been established at this point.
2. Middle Drift about 50 miles east of Rhodes Drift.
3. Main Drift on the road from Pietersburg to Victoria.

There is also a drift near Massibi's Kraal, between the Rhodes and Middle Drifts, but it is stated to be bad, and a Kaffir crossing some 40 miles east of the Main Drift.

The following streams flow into the Limpopo from Southern Rhodesia :—

The Shashi with its tributaries the Ramaquaban, Semokwi, Shashani and Tuli.

The Umsingwani.

The Buby.

The Nuanetsi. (This river was found dry in September, 1898.)

All the lesser rivers in the territory have the usual South African characteristics. During the rains the stream pours down 200 or 300 yards wide, but as the dry season advances, it gradually dwindles down, often to a mere trickle, and sometimes even disappears altogether. The bed thus left exposed, is usually composed of huge stretches of sand dotted with stagnant pools, but a few minutes digging in the sand will generally suffice to procure a supply of fresh water.

The territory, as a rule, is well timbered, but the majority of the trees belong to the Acacia family, and are of small size. The wood is not durable, and its chief use is for fuel. There are, however, two varieties of this family called the Machabel and the Mountain Acacia, which, on account of their size and form, would make excellent timber if impregnated with creosote or bluestone. The other trees, which are largely used for building and general purposes, are—

1. *The Ikusi or Native Teak.*—This is the most useful of all indigenous trees, the fibre is compact, the wood of great durability and less liable to the attacks of white ants than that of any other variety.
2. *The M'Tshibi.*—This tree is somewhat similar to the Ikusi, but has not as yet been employed to any great extent.
3. *The Mangwe or Bastard Yellow Wood.*—Furnishes small

General characteristics of smaller rivers.

Forests.

timber with a long straight grain, much used by joiners and wagon-makers.

4. *The Mopani*.—A useful tree, furnishing good poles, and of great value as fuel owing to its heat-giving power.
5. *The Mahobo-hobo*.—This tree is not a native of the country, and is supposed to have been introduced by former searchers for gold. It is found only in the vicinity of old gold workings, and being very durable, and not liable to the attacks of wood-borers, is especially adapted for mining work.

The principal forests are found in the west and north-west of the territory, and have an estimated area of 2,000 square miles. Large trees are dotted about them, but are not plentiful.

The Guai forest lies between the Khami and Guai rivers on the west, and the Shangani river on the east. The predominating tree is the Ikusi, but the M'Tshibi, Mangwe, and Mopani are also found there.

The Somabula forest is situated in the angle between the Gwelo, Shangani, and Umoukwe rivers; it is chiefly composed of small trees growing close together in a sandy soil; there is little undergrowth, and water is extremely scarce.

In the Belingwe and Selukwe districts there are also large tracts of timber, consisting chiefly of the Mahobo-hobo, the Machabel, and the Mountain Acacia.

The formation of the country consists of granites, slates, auriferous schists, and coal measures. Geological formation.

CHAPTER II.

COMMUNICATIONS.

There are two principal routes to the territory: the one by rail from the Cape Colony and Natal *via* Kimberley and Mafeking to Buluwayo, the other by rail from Beira to Umtali, and thence by road to Salisbury.

By the former route, Buluwayo is reached from Cape Town in 113 hours, from Port Elizabeth in 103 hours, and from Natal in 132 hours. By the latter, the journey by rail from Beira to Umtali occupies 30 hours, and that by coach from Umtali to Salisbury a further 36 hours.

There is a third route from Pretoria *via* Pietersburg and Tuli to Buluwayo, but, since the opening of the railway to Buluwayo, the mail coaches on this line have been discontinued.

Two railway systems run into the country.

Railways.

1. *The Bechuanaland Railway.*

This is a continuation of the main line of the Cape Colony, and runs from Vryburg *via* Mafeking and the Bechuanaland Protectorate to Buluwayo.

The line was built by the Bechuanaland Railway Company at a cost of £2,000,000, and was opened for traffic to Buluwayo in November, 1897. The gauge is 3 feet 6 inches, the same as that of the Cape system; the rails are of steel, weighing 60 lbs. to the yard, and the bridges have a steel superstructure of the Cape Government strength. Subsidies of £20,000 and £10,000 per annum are payable to the Railway Company during a period of 10 years by the Imperial Government and the British South Africa Company respectively.

The line is at present worked by the Cape Government, in conjunction with their own railways, at cost price.

The following table gives the distances from Cape Town to Buluwayo:—

			Miles.	
Cape Town	to	Kimberley	... 647	Cape Government Railway.
Kimberley	„	Vryburg	... 127	
Vryburg	„	Mafeking	... 96	
Mafeking	„	Gaberones	... 92	Bechuanaland Railway.
Gaberones	„	Mochudi	... 32	
Mochudi	„	Palapye	... 138	
Palapye	„	Francistown	... 102	
Francistown	„	Buluwayo	... 126	
			<hr/> 1,360	

The line is equal in all respects to those of the Cape Government system, but the scarcity of water in the Bechuanaland Pro-

tectorate constitutes a serious difficulty in its efficient working. During the dry season it has been found necessary to run special trains carrying water for locomotive and station purposes, but this difficulty will no doubt be minimized by the construction of dams for the conservation of water.

The extension of this line *viâ* Gwelo through the Mafungabusi district to the Zambesi, is now under consideration.

2. The East Coast Railway.

The line from Beira to Umtali, constructed by the Beira Junction Railway Company and the Beira Railway Company, was opened in February, 1898, and the system has been extended to Salisbury by the Mashonaland Railway Company, the line being opened to the latter place in May, 1899.

The advantages accruing from the opening of the railway to Umtali are enormous. Passengers are carried rapidly through the malarial districts lying near the coast, and the fly-belt, near Chimoio, which hitherto has proved such a serious obstacle to transport, can now be disregarded. The one drawback is the inequality of gauge; the line from Beira to Umtali has a gauge of only 2 feet, whereas the extension to Salisbury has been constructed with a gauge of 3 feet 6 inches, similar to that of the Bechuanaland and Cape railways. This difference necessitates the transshipment of goods at Umtali, and consequently entails delay as well as increased cost.*

The distances on the Beira-Umtali line are as follows:—

			Miles.	
Beira	to Fontesvilla	...	35·5	Beira Junction Railway.
Fontesvilla	„ Chimoio	...	118	} Beira Railway.
Chimoio	„ Maçequêçe	...	45	
Maçequêçe	„ Umtali	...	23	
			221·5	

From Umtali to Salisbury the distance is 160 miles.

Mule coaches carrying passengers and mails run twice a week Coaches. each way between Buluwayo and Salisbury, and once a week between Buluwayo and Victoria. The route to Salisbury runs *viâ* Gwelo, Iron Mine Hill, Enkeldoorn, and Charter, and the time occupied by the journey is three and a half days; to Victoria *viâ* Gwelo and Selukwe, time about three days.

The report of the Commissioner of Public Works for the year Roads. ending 30th September, 1897, showed that there were 2,230 miles of road in Southern Rhodesia which were maintained by the Government, and that a sum of £14,000 had been appropriated for general improvements and repairs to drifts during the following year.

None of these roads are metalled; they are simply tracks cut through the bush, and during the rains become very heavy. The

* The gauge of the line south of Umtali is being altered to 3 feet 6 inches.

work of maintenance consists chiefly in repairing the approaches to the drifts and improving the gradients.

The following list shows the principal roads in the territory with approximate distances :—

Principal Roads in Southern Rhodesia.

From	To	Miles.
Buluwayo ...	Ramaquaban <i>via</i> Mangwe ...	100
" ...	Macloutsie " ...	174
" ...	Tuli " Manzi Nyama ...	150
" ...	Victoria " Selukwe ...	160
" ...	Salisbury " Gwelo and Charter... ..	280
" ...	" " Inyati and Hartley ...	275
" ...	Victoria Falls " Solusi's, Heindrek's Vley, Daka, and Pandamatenka	210
Gwelo ...	Sebakwe ...	80
Iron Mine Hill	Victoria ...	110
Enkeldoorn ...	" ...	120
Charter ...	Tuli <i>via</i> Victoria ...	350
" ...	Marendellas ...	60
Salisbury ...	Lo Magundi ...	80
" ...	Mount Darwin ...	45
" ...	Karere's Kraal <i>via</i> M'toko's ...	120
" ...	Old Umtali " Headlands ...	175
Headlands ...	New Umtali ...	80
" ...	Inyanga ...	60
New Umtali ...	" ...	70
" ...	Penhalonga ...	10
" ...	Melsetter... ..	110
" ...	Victoria ...	160
Buluwayo ...	Roads to mines ...	200
Gwelo ...	" " ...	120
Salisbury ...	" " ...	50
Umtali ...	" " ...	50
Victoria ...	" " ...	80

Telegraphs.

On the 30th September, 1897, the Company owned 1,856½ miles of line and 2,583 miles of wire. The system is connected with that of the Cape Colony at Vryburg, with the Portuguese line at Chimoio, and with the Trans-continental line at Umtali.

The various lines are as follows :—

I. Railway Lines.

Between	Poles.	No. of Wires.	Remarks.
Vryburg and Mafeking ...	Iron	1	Other wires belonging to the Cape Government run on the same poles to Mafeking.
Mafeking and Palapye ...	"	4	
Palapye " Buluwayo ...	"	3	

II. Road Lines.

Between		Poles.	No. of Wires.	Remarks.
Macloutsie and	Charter ...	Mixed	1	The section of the Buluwayo-Salisbury line between Salisbury and Charter is to be fitted with iron poles and two wires.
"	" Mangwe ...	Iron	1	
Mangwe	" Buluwayo	Wood	1	
"	" Tati ...	"	1	
Buluwayo	" Salisbury...	"	1	
Salisbury	" Umtali ...	"	1	
"	" Kopje ...	"	1	
"	" Mazoe ...	"	1	
Umtali	" Chimoio ...	"	1	
"	" Penhalonga	"	1	
"	" Melsetter...	"	1	Under construction.
Salisbury	" Hartley ...	"	1	" "

The Trans-continental Telegraph Line.

This line, which is the property of the African Trans-continental Telegraph Company, was originally laid from Salisbury *via* Mazoe, and Tete to Blantyre. During the rebellion, the section between Mazoe and Tete was completely destroyed by the rebels, and, in re-erecting it, a new route through a less difficult country was selected. The line now starts from Umtali and runs *via* Inyanga and Mount Nani (Moltke) to Tete. At the time of writing (October, 1898) communication has been established as far as Karonga, a point on the north-western shore of Lake Nyasa, and the extension of the line to Lake Tanganyika is being rapidly pushed on. It is hoped in time to connect this line with the Egyptian telegraph system and thus establish direct communication between the northern and southern extremities of Africa.

Telephones.

Telephonic communication has been established between several of the more important police posts. The lines are as follows:—

	Miles.
Gwelo—Selukwe	20
" —Ingwenia	24
Fig Tree—Inugu	9
Buluwayo—Fort Ussher	22
" —Manzi-Nyama	75
Fort Ussher—Umchabez	7
Umlugulu—Balla-Balla	15
Balla-Balla—Filabusi	30

The time-table of the existing postal arrangements is given Posts. below; in addition to those mentioned police posts are conveyed at intervals to and from the various out-stations occupied by that force.

Places between which Mails are Conveyed.	Service.	Conveyance.
Buluwayo—Cape Colony, Natal, Orange Free State, and South African Republic	Daily	Rail.
Buluwayo—Gwelo, Enkeldoorn, and Salisbury	Bi-weekly	Coach.
„ —Manzi-Nyama	Weekly	Cart.
„ —Tuli	„	Native runner.
Enkeldoorn—Victoria	„	Cart.
Gwelo—Selukwe and Victoria	„	Coach.
Salisbury—Umtali and Beira	„	Coach and rail.
„ —Hartley	„	Native runner.
„ —Lo Magundi	„	„
Tuli—Macloutsie	„	„
Umtali—Inyanga	„	„
„ —Melsetter	„	„

Postal and
telegraph
offices.

Postal and telegraph offices exist at the following places:—

Matabililand.

Buluwayo, Balla Balla, Fig Tree, Filabusi, Fort Ussher, Gwelo, Ingwenia, Inugu, Mangwe, Manzi-nyama, Selukwe, Umchabez, Umlugulu, Tuli.

Mashonaland.

Salisbury (2), Charter, Enkeldoorn, Fort Haynes, Inyanga, Marandellas, Mazoe, Old Umtali, Umtali, Victoria, Penhalonga, Rusapi.

CHAPTER III.

TOWNS, VILLAGES, &C.

BULUWAYO is situated on the north-west edge of the great central plateau of Southern Rhodesia, near the site of Lobengula's kraal. It is the capital of Matabililand, the terminus, for the time being, of the Bechuanaland Railway, and the most important town in the whole territory. Buluwayo

The township is well laid out in square blocks, with broad and roomy streets, and is divided into two halves by a large open space, called the North and South Parks, through which runs a stream of water. The western half is the main business centre, and contains a large open market place; the eastern half consists chiefly of residential suburbs. The thoroughfares are divided in the American fashion into avenues and streets, the former running east and west, and the latter north and south.

The municipal affairs are controlled by a mayor assisted by a council of eight members.

Buluwayo boasts of three newspapers, several hotels, a race-course, an athletic ground, and two clubs.

Banks.—Standard Bank of South Africa, Bank of Africa, African Banking Corporation.

Churches.—Church of England, Dutch Reformed, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Wesleyan, Congregational, and Jewish Synagogue.

The water supply is plentiful, and there is a fine hospital erected as a memorial to Major Wilson and his comrades.

The town, however, is in an exposed situation, and subject to dust storms of a most disagreeable character. Large numbers of ornamental trees have been planted, but have suffered greatly from the attacks of white ants; attention is now being paid to the cultivation of such varieties as are impervious to this pest.

European population about 8,000, and steadily increasing.

Enkeldoorn is a small township in the Charter district on the road from Gwelo to Salisbury. It is the seat of a magistracy and the centre of a large agricultural population. Enkeldoorn.

Gwelo, situated near the Gwelo river 105 miles north-east of Buluwayo and 175 miles from Salisbury, though at present only a small town, is an important business centre, as it lies in the midst of extensive goldfields. Gwelo.

The township is rectangular in shape, with a market square, a gymkhana ground, a hospital, and church and school sites at its four corners. It is the administrative centre of the district which bears its name, and contains a Government hospital under the charge of a surgeon with a staff of three trained nurses.

The township of Melsetter, also the seat of a magistracy, exists at present mainly on paper. The district in which it lies is one of Melsetter.

the most fertile in South Africa, well wooded and watered, and enjoying the reputation of being exceedingly healthy, but it has hitherto suffered considerably from want of communications. Situated on the extreme east of Southern Rhodesia it possesses only two roads connecting it with the rest of the territory; the one leading to Victoria is merely a rough trek road, little if ever used; the other, to Umtali, traverses a very rough and rugged country, and is not sufficiently good to allow of the passage of fully loaded wagons. It is now proposed to open a new road to some point on the Beira railway.

Salisbury.

Salisbury, the capital of Mashonaland and the seat of the Government of Southern Rhodesia, is situated on the plateau near the end of the watershed. It was founded in 1890, and, in spite of difficulties of communication, it has grown rapidly.

It now contains three banks, three churches (English, Wesleyan, and Roman Catholic), a large market building, extensive Government offices, two clubs, and several large hotels. A good race-course is situated at one side of the town, and spacious public gardens have been laid out.

Salisbury is 280 miles from Buluwayo and 160 miles from Umtali. The railway from the latter place reached Salisbury in 1899.

The Government hospital is under the charge of a resident surgeon with a staff of nursing sisters, and contains 15 beds, as well as a recreation and reading room.

European population about 1,200.

Tuli.

Tuli, though the seat of a magistracy, can scarcely be called a town. The white population is very small, and the buildings consist of two hotels, a small gaol and police station, a Government store, and a few private houses. It owes its importance to its proximity to Rhodes's Drift on the Transvaal border, and to the fact that it is situated on one of the main roads from the south to Buluwayo. The opening of the railway has, however, diverted the greater portion of the traffic from this route, and it is therefore not probable that Tuli will ever increase much in size; moreover, the low altitude of its situation—under 2,000 feet—renders it unhealthy at certain seasons of the year.

New Umtali.

In 1896, in order to facilitate the extension of the Beira Railway and obviate the necessity of carrying the line by steep gradients over the Christmas Pass, it was decided to move the township to a point south of that pass. This removal has been effected at a cost to the British South Africa Company of nearly £50,000.

Umtali is not only the centre of a gold mining district, but has also the advantage of being situated at the point where the change of gauge between the Beira and Mashonaland Railways takes place, and, consequently, may remain a considerable business centre after it ceases to be a railway terminus.

A fine park has been laid out in the new township, which is being rapidly built over and includes a new hospital. The old township now contains only a police barrack, hotel, and a few private houses.

Victoria is a small, prettily situated town lying on a plateau Victoria. between the Umshagashi and Umtcheke rivers. It contains a block of public buildings, gaol, hospital, club, a Roman Catholic church, two hotels, and about 50 houses. It is the seat of a magistracy, and the centre of a mining and agricultural district, which, indeed, is said to be the most prolific grain-producing country in the territory. The town is 210 miles from Salisbury, 160 miles from Buluwayo, and about the same distance from Umtali.

The European population of the town and district is about 300. There are no native towns of any importance.

CHAPTER IV.

CLIMATE.

ON the whole the climate is good and the higher portions of the territory have been described as essentially "a white man's country." It is true that the valleys of the Zambesi and Limpopo are malarious during the rains, but, so far as is known, these portions of the territory offer no attractions to settlers. On the plateau the nights, during the winter months, are cold with heavy dews but by day there is a bright sun, a cloudless sky, and generally a fresh breeze. Even in the summer the heat is not oppressive and the fall of rain is rarely continuous. Thunderstorms are prevalent from October to February and are accompanied by severe winds, heavy rain, and occasionally by hail.

Temperature.—The following information has been extracted from the statistics, compiled under the direction of the Agricultural Department, for the six months ending 30th September, 1897.

Temperature.	Salisbury.	Buluwayo.
Mean	61·3	62·7
Mean maximum ...	75·3	75·7
„ minimum ...	47·3	49·7
Maximum shade ...	88·3	86·0
Minimum „ ...	37·5	38·0

From observations taken by Major Forbes, at Salisbury, during the years 1891 and 1892, the extremes of temperature were found to be:—

Maximum	...	93·0
Minimum	...	34·0

Rainfall.—The wet season occurs between October and April, but the heaviest rains fall during the months of December, January, and February.

The total rainfall at Salisbury between 1st October, 1895, and 30th September, 1896, was 34·94 inches and in 1896-97, 29·20 inches.

Frost.—Frost is of comparatively rare occurrence except on the high, open plateaux, such as the Charter flats, the neighbourhood of Salisbury and Marandellas, and the Inyangani Mountains. Here in winter the nights are cold and several degrees of frost are at times recorded.

Health.—The prevalent diseases are dysentery and malarial fever, which are due in a great measure to exposure and want of care. Dr. Fleming, the medical director of the Company, in his report for 1897, states:—

“There is no doubt not only that malarial fever is steadily dying out, especially in towns and more inhabited areas, but that it is also changing its type to a much milder form. Although it may be long yet before the scourge disappears entirely, especially in the outlying districts, still with increasing population and improved housing and conditions of living, I have not a doubt that malarial fever, if not altogether a thing of the past, will before long be held of comparatively little importance.”

Medical Officers and Hospitals.—The medical department maintained by the Company consists of a director and the hospital and district surgeons. In addition to these there are five medical officers attached to the police.

Hospitals have been established at Buluwayo, Gwelo, Salisbury, Umtali, and Victoria, at each of which there is a staff of trained nurses.

CHAPTER V.

TRADE, AGRICULTURE, PRODUCTIONS, &c.

TRADE, in the ordinary acceptance of the term, can hardly be said to exist. Exports other than gold there are none, and imports have, owing to the prohibitive rates of transport, been hitherto limited almost entirely to the necessaries of civilization; moreover, rinderpest and rebellion put a stop to the development of the country during the years 1896-97.

The advent of the railway and the consequent reduction of the cost of carriage will no doubt permit of the development of the gold mines and infuse new life into the commercial operations of the territory.

Agriculture.

As an agricultural and pastoral country Southern Rhodesia compares favourably with any part of South Africa. The extent of pasture is enormous, the grass of good quality, and the soil rich. The low country, in the valleys of the Zambesi and Limpopo, is no doubt malarious during the summer months, and in the former the presence of the Tsetse fly at present renders cattle raising an impossibility. The latter, however, is said to afford good grazing ground during the winter, and will no doubt be utilized at that season of the year in the same way as the Bush Veld in the South African Republic. But without taking these districts into account, there still remains an immense tract of perfectly healthy country, suitable in every respect for farming operations.

Mr. Colquhoun speaking at the Royal Colonial Institute of the pastoral qualities of the territory pointed out that a peculiar feature of the country was the fact that when the long summer grass is burnt off, usually between the months of July and August, there springs up a short sweet herbage on which cattle and horses thrive. Consequently, during the months of September and October, when the Transvaal and Bechuanaland are a scorched and arid waste, and the cattle poor and miserable, the valleys of Southern Rhodesia are everywhere green, and the cattle fat and in good order.

The greater portion of the country will produce all the fruits and vegetables of Northern Europe—apples, peaches, plums, strawberries, potatoes, carrots, turnips, wheat, oats and barley can all be successfully grown as well as mealies, Kaffir corn, pok,* pumpkins, tobacco, bananas, lemons, oranges, figs, and grapes. Coffee has been introduced in small quantities into the Melsetter district and thrives well.

In this latter district great facilities for tanning exist, lime is

* Poko, the staple food of the Mashona, is a species of millet, and is apparently unknown in other parts of South Africa.

plentiful and the bark of several indigenous trees has been found to be suitable for the purpose. The leather produced is said to be of good quality, but very little attention has as yet been given to this industry.

The three great difficulties which farmers have to contend with, and which are common to the greater part of South Africa, are rinderpest, locusts, and horse sickness.

The rinderpest which originated in East Africa some years ago and gradually worked its way across the continent appeared in Southern Rhodesia in February, 1896, and spread with frightful rapidity through the country. Stringent regulations regarding isolation of herds, and destruction of such herds as showed any symptoms of the disease, were introduced, but with the scanty machinery possessed by the Government they proved difficult to enforce, and the outbreak of the rebellion soon put a stop to them altogether. The plague, therefore, swept on southward, without impediment to continue its ravages in the Bechuanaland Protectorate, the South African Republic and the Cape Colony. Rinderpest

Goats and sheep do not appear to have been affected, but the larger kinds of buck such as eland, koodoo, and hartebeest died by hundreds. The greater part of the country was practically denuded of cattle. In the Melsetter district which, owing to its isolated position, for a long time escaped the disease, only 33 per cent. of the cattle perished, but in the rest of territory, and in the Bechuanaland Protectorate it is probable that the ratio of deaths was not far short of 90 per cent.

The few cattle which recovered from the disease are considered to be immune, and attempts are now being made to introduce inoculated cattle, but the success of the experiment remains to be proved. There appears to be no reliable information as to how long the virus of rinderpest remains in the country, *i.e.*, what length of time must elapse before fresh cattle can safely be brought in. British East Africa, which was ravaged by the disease some 10 or 12 years ago, has for some time past been restocked, and the cattle have not since been attacked by this particular disease.

Locusts are to the agriculturist almost as great a pest as is rinderpest to the stock-farmer. The whole of the growing crops on a farm are often completely destroyed in a few hours, and as yet no certain means of protecting them have been discovered. Locusts.

The locusts for some time after they are hatched are unable to fly, but hop along the ground eating off the vegetation as they go. At this stage they are called "Voetgangers," and their ravages are almost incredible. They move slowly forward laying the country on their line of march absolutely bare; not a blade of grass nor leaf of a vegetable is spared. Various means have been tried to minimise the damage, but so far without success; deep trenches dug in the ground are soon filled up, and the swarm moves steadily on over the dead bodies of a portion of its members to carry on its work of destruction. No one who has not seen a swarm of locusts can form any idea of the enormous numbers contained in it. When flying, the air is darkened by them, and if they settle

on growing crops, not a vestige of green is to be seen ; even trains have been known to be stopped by the immense quantities piled on the line, and crushed under the wheels.

Encouraging results have attended experiments which have been conducted in Mashonaland,* with a view of destroying locusts by means of spreading amongst them a peculiar disease, which rapidly kills them off. The disease is spread by means of toxine or disease-fungus, and the methods recommended as follows :—

1. To release among the swarms live locusts, carefully besmeared or washed with a small portion or solution of the fungus.
2. To sprinkle the contents of tubes of toxine on patches of damp ground where the locusts alight to feed.
3. To release among swarms, locusts which have been confined and fed upon food impregnated with the poison.

The toxine can be prepared by collecting locusts which have perished of the disease, drying and crushing them to a fine powder, which is then dissolved in water.

The best time for the operation is when the locusts are in the hopping stage, as the swarms then occupy a limited area, and can be more easily dealt with.

Horse
sickness.

This disease is prevalent in nearly every portion of South Africa, and no remedy is known for it. Inoculation has been tried, but the results were not successful. Stabling horses and preventing them from grazing while the dew is on the grass, are the best preventive measures.

Tsetse fly
country. -

Roughly speaking, the district in Southern Rhodesia infested either wholly or partly by the Tsetse fly may be said to extend for about 80 to 100 miles south of the Zambesi, though it is stated by Mr. Coryndon that there is a belt of clear country 30 miles broad on either side of the river during the greater part of its passage along the boundary. The fly formerly existed near Tuli and on the Lundi river, but is believed now to have disappeared from these regions. There is no Tsetse on the route from Tete to Umtali.†

Experience in other parts of South Africa has shown that the extinction of the big game leads to the disappearance of the Tsetse fly, and there is no doubt that, with the advance of civilisation its southward limit will gradually recede towards the Zambesi.

Minerals.

Gold.

The most important industry, and one on which the future prosperity of the country depends, is that of gold-mining.

The area in which operations are being carried on, corresponds roughly with that of the watershed, and embraces practically the whole plateau. The auriferous quartz is found in metamorphic

* "Annual Report B.S.A. Police," 1898, p. 65. Similar experiments have also been made in Natal.

† Large numbers of cattle and sheep are being brought by this route from Northern Charterland and the Zambesi to Umtali and Salisbury.

schists, which occur as broad belts or patches in the granite. These belts usually run east and west, and have a breadth varying from 5 to 20 miles. Numerous ancient workings of an extensive character, some of the shafts having a depth of about 100 feet, are scattered over these belts, but the circumstances of the country have hitherto prevented the systematic development of the reefs by their new owners; large quantities of machinery are however now being imported, and the value of the deposits should soon be ascertained.

Alluvial gold has been found in small quantities in the Belingwe and Umtali districts.

Coal is reported to have been found in the Mafunga Busi, Sebungu, Bubi, Gwelo, and Wankie districts. Samples of fair quality have been brought in, but as yet little testing work has been done.

Iron is found in many districts, but has hitherto only been worked by natives. Other minerals.

Discoveries of kieselguhr, nitrates, plumbago, and salt have also been reported, but no information as to the localities in which they have been found is published.

Free stone of excellent quality is obtained in the neighbourhood of Buluwayo, and slate has been found in the Lo Magundi district. Stone and slate.

Transport.

Prior to the advent of the rinderpest, transport was chiefly carried out by ox wagons, these however have now been mainly replaced by mule wagons, though a few spans of salted oxen are still working. In the fly country donkeys are preferable, as they resist the poison better than either mules or oxen. The quantity of transport animals and vehicles maintained by the Company as well as the quantity which, it is estimated, could be obtained at short notice from private individuals is given in the following table:—

Description.	Property of B.S.A. Co.	Private Property obtainable at three weeks' notice.
Horses	45 ^(a)	350
Mules	1,195	3,500 ^(b)
Donkeys	410	2,500
Oxen	441	1,250
Wagons	301	350
Scotch carts	92	250

Away from the main routes, carriers' transport is still very largely used in Mashonaland.

(a) Exclusive of the B.S.A. Police horses.

(b) Includes the mules employed on the mail coach service.

CHAPTER VI.

INHABITANTS.

White population.—The constant influx of Europeans into the territory, renders an estimate of the numbers of the white population of very little value. In 1896 the white inhabitants, men, women and children numbered about 6,000, of whom 10 per cent. were stated to be Boers. Since that date the numbers have largely increased, indeed during the six months ended 30th September, 1897, the European population of Matabililand is stated to have doubled.

Native population.—No accurate returns of the numbers of the natives are forthcoming. In 1896 the total was conjectured to be about 1,000,000, but these figures are probably far too high. The Deputy Administrator in his report for 1897 estimates the native population of Matabililand at about 120,000, while that of Mashonaland is stated to be about 236,000.

The three principal races are :—

The Matabili.

The Makalaka or Makalanga.

The Mashona.

Of these the Matabili are of Zulu origin, though now largely intermingled with the other races, while the Makalaka and Mashona are the remnants of the tribes who possessed the country prior to the advent of the Zulu hordes.

The Matabili came into the country under Umzilikazi about the year 1840, and brought with them the habits and military organization of the Zulus. Despising all industries, they lived solely by war, massacring and pillaging in all directions; and they soon reduced the original inhabitants to a state of utter subjection, indeed the greater part of the country was virtually depopulated. The incorporation of the conquered native races, and the gradual diminution of the pure Zulu stock began, however; as time went on to produce its effects. Degeneration steadily set in, the stern discipline of Umzilikazi was relaxed, and at the time of the war in 1893, the supremacy of the nation rested mainly on the prestige of the original warriors.

The Matabili were divided into three classes.

1. Abezansi.—Members of the original tribe who came in with Umzilikazi and their descendants.
2. Abemhla.—Bechuanas taken prisoner on the way up.
3. Maholi.—A mixed people, Makalakas, Mashonas, &c., collected from the neighbouring tribes during the periodical raids.

The Maholi though called slaves, enjoyed a considerable amount of liberty, and were formed into regiments in the same way as the members of the other two classes.

The Matabili are an essentially lazy race, in the words of Lord Grey they are "the product of generations of idleness." They have absolutely no industries, and have been accustomed to regard labour as derogatory to their dignity.

The Makalaka are described as a peaceful and industrious people, and held aloof both from the war of 1893 and the late rebellion. Prior to the advent of the Matabili, they enjoyed considerable prosperity, and were the possessors of large herds of cattle. They are chiefly found in the west of Matabililand.

The Mashona are composed of a number of different tribes, but are probably all of the Bantu family. Selous thus speaks of them.

"The name Mashonaland is a coined word and how it became current I have never been able to discover. The native inhabitants of this part of Africa, belong to many different clans, some of which are probably the remnants of once powerful tribes. Each sept has its own tribal name and tribal marks, and the territory of each is fairly well defined. I have never, however, met with any clan whose members called themselves Mashonas, and the name is altogether unknown amongst the natives of this part of Africa, except to a few who have learnt the word from Europeans. As a generic term however, the word is useful, and may be taken to designate all the tribes of South Eastern Africa that are not of Zulu blood. These tribes it may be remarked, all speak dialects differing very slightly one from another, and all of them quite comprehensible to the Makalakas living to the west and south-west of Matabililand."*

The Mashona, though more industrious than the Matabili, are far inferior, both in physique and morale, and, until lately, were regarded as being absolutely wanting in courage. Recent events have, however, shown that this estimate of their character was a mistaken one. Mr. Hole in his report on the rebellion in Mashonaland thus speaks of them:—

"The Mashona race has always been regarded as composed of disintegrated groups of natives, having no common organisation and owing allegiance to no single authority, cowed by a long series of raids from Matabeleland into a condition of abject pusillanimity, and incapable of planning any combined or premeditated action. The result has proved that their intelligence has been underrated, and their cunning—it cannot be called courage—has not been sufficiently appreciated. They have shown themselves capable of concerted action, and are greatly swayed by superstition and belief in witchcraft, which finds expression in the M'Limo who is a personage of far greater power than any chief. So far from being cowed, it is proved beyond a doubt that they have been hoarding rifles and ammunition for years past—probably ever since the occupation of the country in 1890—with the

* Selous, "Travel and Adventure in South-East Africa."

object, it is presumed, of revolt at a suitable opportunity. With true Kaffir deceit they have beguiled the administrator into the idea that they were content with the Government of the country and wanted nothing more than to work and trade, and become civilised; but at a given signal they cast all pretence aside and simultaneously set in motion the whole of the machinery which they had been preparing."

They are chiefly an agricultural people, but also smelt and work iron, manufacture a coarse kind of pottery, and weave blankets and mats of bark.

Language.

The languages spoken by all the natives in the country belong to what is known as the Bantu group, and have many points of resemblance. The dialect of the Matabili (called Sentabili) is a corruption of the original Zulu; that of the Makalaka is closely akin to Sesuto. The Rev. Father Hartmann states that in the language spoken by the Mashona (called Chirwina) no foreign elements are traceable, which he attributes to the fact that the inhabitants of Mashonaland have on all sides been hemmed in by tribes belonging to the Bantu family; other writers have pointed out the resemblance which it bears to the Zulu, the main difference being the omission of all gutturals ("clicks") and the changing of the letter "l" into "r."

The Mashona language is perfectly comprehensible to the Sesuto-speaking Makalaka living in the west of the territory.

Religion.

The religion of all the native tribes in the territory, so far as it exists at all, is based on the superstition of the M'Limo, by which name the abstract idea of the Deity appears to be represented. They believe in the immortality of the soul, but have no definite ideas concerning a future state. The M'Limo superstition appears to have originated among the Makalakas and was not adopted by the Matabili until after the accession of Lobengula.

The following account of the superstition and of its perversion by the Matabili indunas, to suit their own ends, is given by Mr. Thomas, native Commissioner in Matabililand:—

"As far as I can recollect I have, from the days of my boyhood, heard the Matabele talk of the 'Ngwali' as the Makalanga, 'M'Limo' or god, whom they found the Mlan Makalanga worshipping when they (the Matabele) first entered the country under Umzilikazi. This Ngwali or M'Limo was supposed to be a spirit invisible to the human eye, who sometimes elected to speak from trees, stones, caves, &c., having the place of his high priests' abode in the Matoppo Hills.

"He was more especially the god of the seasons and crops, and as such was propitiated by offerings of cattle, beer, and other native products and food—the seed often being taken to his temple (or headquarters) to be blessed. He was represented by the so-called sons of god ('abantwana bonlimo') or priests—all of whom being Makalanga people—who underwent a severe and rigorous course of training before being admitted to the order of priests.

"A yearly festival was held which was attended by almost the whole of the Makalanga people—especially the younger people—and which festival was a time of much feasting and love-making. The people believed most implicitly in the M'Limo, and the priests enforced the observance of all the rites and ceremonies of their creed without respect of persons. Ngwali (as the M'Limo was called) was a god of peace and plenty, and never in the knowledge of the natives has he posed as a god of war; for, not when Umzilikazi entered the country did he help the Makalanga to withstand the Matabele; nor did he ever pretend, in any way, to assist the Matabele impis which went out to war during Lobengula's time; nor did he ever assist Lobengula (or ever pretend to do so) when the whites advanced against him in 1893. He blossomed forth as a god of war for the first time during the late Matabele rising, and even to this day the natives in Matabeleland say: 'Whoever heard of Ngwali being a god of war or armies?' Again, the Makalanga, whose tutelary deity and special property this M'Limo is, did not as a tribe join in the rebellion. The deduction I make from the foregoing facts is this, viz., that the Matabele having imbibed gradually some of the Makalanga ideas with reference to the M'Limo, and having often striven to propitiate him with offerings, that they might reap good crops and be kept from sickness and harm, had learned in a great measure to participate in the Makalanga faith in him, the indunas, knowing that the people had this faith, and circumstances combining to assist them, persuaded one or two of the abantwana bonlimo (sons of god) or priests to co-operate with them, and proclaim as the will of the M'Limo what was really the will of the indunas: hence the rising. I do not think that there is any man who actually personates 'M'Limo,' and is known as such by the priests, but I think the priests pretend to hold converse with M'Limo and thus hoodwink the people, probably believing thoroughly in their rites themselves."*

In Mashonaland the part of the priests of the M'Limo appears to be played by witch-doctors, called "Mondoros." It is at any rate certain that the latter were in constant communication with the priests in Matabeleland during the late rebellion.

The recognition by the authorities of the system of Lobola or The System of Lobola. marriage by purchase, has given rise to a certain amount of criticism; and it may, therefore, not be out of place to append the following notes on this custom, which have been drawn up by Mr. W. E. Thomas, Acting Chief Native Commissioner.

"The system of 'lobola' is an old-established custom prevailing throughout the whole of the native tribes of South Africa, being perhaps slightly diverse in its details amongst different tribes, but not materially differing. The origin of the custom was undoubtedly the purchase of girls or women as wives, and there has ever, to a European mind, remained something of this element in the "lobola" system; but the outworking of the system during the last 30 years cannot be truly and justly so described, for the payment of 'lobola' has assumed more of the character of a

* "B.S.A. Co.'s Report on Native Disturbances in 1896."

settlement by the husband, a depositing by him of a certain amount with the bride's father which bound the two families more strongly together, as laying an obligation on the wife to be loyal, the husband to be considerate, and on the father to take his daughter back and provide for her should it become necessary. 'Lobola' is, therefore, a good custom for two very potent reasons, viz. :—

"First, as being a preventive, amongst the natives, of a good deal of immorality.

"Second, as placing-upon the father and family of the woman a legal obligation to care for and support her should her husband die, or should she be separated from him.

1st. *Preventive of Immorality.*—The natives having no moral (as we accept the term) or religious restraint binding their consciences, with reference to immoral relations between the sexes, were only kept from indiscriminate so-called marriage and cohabitation by the "lobola" system, which is the native form of legal civil marriage, whereby a man or boy was not allowed to marry without providing "malobolo" (dowry), agreed upon between the father, or the legal guardian of the bride elect, and himself. This system made it criminal for a man to live or cohabit with a woman or girl whom he had no legal right to so approach, and the system was a great deterrent from immoral practices. A man, too, would be afraid to approach, immorally, his neighbour's legal wife, for the action would bring the wrath of both families, as well as the power of the law down upon him, without chance of escape or mercy, whether the woman had been a consenting party or not.

"2nd. *As providing for the maintenance by the father or his family, of the woman should her husband die, &c.*—When the husband died or deserted his wife, she had the legal right to go to her father and claim support and maintenance, and should her father be dead, then her brothers, *i.e.*, the family, were responsible for her maintenance, provided that her husband's family could or would not maintain her. And if the father or his representative allowed her to marry again, the "malobolo" (dowry) would have to be returned to the first husband's family, when the responsibility of the woman's father and his family would cease with regard to the first marriage.

"The fixture of a certain number of cattle or an equivalent for "lobola" is a limit, *i.e.*, no man may demand more as a marriage settlement for his daughter, but he may accept as little as, or nothing, if he likes. Once the marriage is an accomplished fact, no demand for anything further than that agreed upon before the marriage can be legally claimed. One very important point, upon which we cannot, and do not wish to uphold the native marriage custom, is that of legalising 'marriages de convenance.' It is absolutely imperative, in the name of justice and humanity, that no girl be made to marry against her will. This was always done amongst the older Matabele, though latterly under Lobengula a great many fathers allowed their daughters to marry the man of their choice, and public opinion was in favour of this. And this is a point-upon which this Government most emphatically insists."

CHAPTER VII.

HISTORY.

THE early history of the country is shrouded in mystery, but the ruins found in various parts, notably in Zimbabw, point to the existence in former ages of a highly civilised race; as to the fate of this race, however, or the causes which led to their downfall, no information is forthcoming. Early history.

Mr. Bent holds the ruins to be of Sabæan or Phœnician origin, and it is conjectured that the region now known as Mashonaland is identical with that of Ophir. On all sides are found traces of ancient gold mining operations, and there is no doubt that the trade in gold was carried on for centuries.

At the end of the last century Mashonaland was inhabited by various tribes of the Bantu family, of whose prosperity and subsequent subjugation by the Zulus Selous gives the following account:—*

“As far as we can learn, the country we now call Mashonaland was in the early part of the present century ruled over by the ancestors of the petty chiefs Makoni, Mangwendi, Motoko, Sosi, Umtasa, &c., who were rulers of large and prosperous tribes living in huts, the foundations of which, where they still exist, show them to have been at least three times the size of the miserable tenements which satisfy their degenerate descendants. Hundreds of thousands of acres that now lie fallow must then have been under cultivation, as is proved by the traces of rice and maize fields which can still be discerned in almost every valley. . . . On almost every hill traces of the stone walls will be found which once encircled and protected ancient villages. At that time the inhabitants of this part of Africa must have been rich and prosperous, possessing large flocks of sheep and goats, and numerous herds of a small but beautiful breed of cattle.

“Some 12 or 15 years after the Cape of Good Hope became a British colony, in 1806, some of the outlying Zulu clans broke away from the harsh and cruel rule of Chaka, and commenced their migrations northwards; and wherever these ferocious warriors went their track was marked by the flight of the vultures which feasted upon the corpses of the men, women, and children they had slain, and the flames of the villages they had set fire to. Manikos, the grandfather of Gungunyan,* the present chief of the Abagaza, was the leader of one of these bands, whilst the ancestors of Mpeseni, the principal chief of the Angoni, who are now settled the west of Lake Nyassa, led another horde.

* Selous, “Travel and Adventure in South-East Africa.”

† This chief better known as Gungunhama has since been conquered by the Portuguese and deported from the country.

‘These two Zulu chiefs, after devastating a great portion of what is now called Mashonaland, both settled near the head waters of the Sabi, where they soon came into collision with one another. A great battle was fought lasting—so Lobengula told me he had heard from old men of the Abagaza—for three days, at the end of which time the Angoni were defeated and driven from their settlements. They retreated northwards, devastating the whole country through which they passed, and crossing the Zambesi to the east of Zumbo, made their way on to the higher plateau which lies to the west of Lake Nyassa, where they are living at the present day. . . . The Abagaza retreated southwards, and settled on an elevated and fertile tract to the east of the Central Sabi; and from that date until a few years ago they never ceased to devastate the southern and eastern portions of Mashonaland.’

Matabililand at this period appears to have been inhabited by tribes of the Makalaka race, an industrious and peaceable people, who enjoyed considerable prosperity until the arrival of Umzilikazi and the Matabili about the year 1840.

Umzilikazi and his people, who like the Abagaza and Angoni were fugitives from Zululand, had settled some 20 years previously in the Transvaal. Finding themselves unable to maintain their position in face of the advancing Boers they crossed the Limpopo, and, laying waste the country as they went, finally established themselves in Matabililand, and erected the king's kraal at Buluwayo. From this centre they soon overran every portion of Matabililand, and the northern and western parts of Mashonaland, reducing the inhabitants to a state of absolute misery and subjection. Umzilikazi died in 1868, and was succeeded by his son Lobengula.

The earliest record of relations between the British Government and the Matabili is contained in a treaty entered into in 1836 by Sir Benjamin D'Urban, the Governor of the Cape Colony, and Umzilikazi, who at that time was still living in the Transvaal. This treaty, which was one of friendship and intercourse, does not appear to have led to any results. Four years later the Matabili migrated northwards, and for over 40 years no further attempt to establish political relations with them was made.

Moffat's visit
in 1888.

In 1884 the events which led to the dispatch of Sir Charles Warren's expedition to Bechuanaland caused Her Majesty's Government to recognise the importance of the country north of the Limpopo, and resulted in the proclamation of the Protectorate over Bechuanaland, and the extension of the British sphere of influence to the Zambesi. In 1888 the Rev. J. S. Moffat, Assistant Commissioner in the Bechuanaland Protectorate, visited Buluwayo, and concluded an agreement with Lobengula.

By this agreement Lobengula confirmed the treaty made by his father, Umzilikazi, and further bound himself not to enter into any correspondence or treaty with any foreign State, nor to alienate any part of his country without the previous knowledge and sanction of Her Majesty's High Commissioner for South Africa.

Rudd conces-
sion, 1888.

In October, 1888, Messrs. Rudd, Maguire, and Thompson obtained from Lobengula the famous concession which afterwards

formed the basis of the Charter of the British South Africa Company.

The Charter, which was granted on the 29th October, 1889, defines the principal field of the operations of the British South Africa Company as the region of South Africa lying immediately to the north of British Bechuanaland,* to the north and west of the South African Republic, and to the west of the Portuguese dominions, but excluding the territory known as the district of Tati. It confers on the Company large powers of administration, and confirms them in the full benefit of their concessions and agreements. The Crown, however, reserved the right at the end of 25 years from the date of the Charter, and at the end of every succeeding period of 10 years, to add to, alter, or repeal any of its provisions relating to administrative or public matters, and also at any time to revoke the Charter if it shall be made to appear that the Company has substantially failed to observe its provisions, or is not exercising its powers so as to advance the interests which were represented as likely to be advanced by the grant of the Charter.†

First Charter of B.S.A. Co., 1889.

The Charter having been issued, the Company determined to at once set about the development of their territory, and a scheme for the occupation of Mashonaland was prepared. A police force was accordingly raised and equipped, and, after permission had been obtained from Lobengula, a pioneer expedition started from Macloutsie, in June, 1890, to cut a road to Mount Hampden. The route taken was *viâ* Tuli, Victoria, and Charter, and on the 12th September of the same year, without a shot having been fired, the British flag was hoisted at Salisbury.

Immediately after the arrival of the pioneer expedition at its goal, a treaty was concluded between Mr. Colquhoun, as representing the British South Africa Company, and Umtasa, the Chief of Manica, by which the Company acquired possession of a large tract of valuable country. This led to difficulties with the Portuguese, who laid claim to part of the territory ceded by Umtasa, and entailed negotiations between the British and Portuguese Governments. The question was eventually settled by the Anglo-Portuguese Agreement of the 11th June, 1891, and the boundary between the eastern portion of the Company's territory and the Portuguese Possessions has since been determined by a Joint Commission.

In June, 1891, an Order in Council was issued defining the powers of the High Commission, and placing the authority and jurisdiction of the Company on a firm basis. In September of the same year Dr. Jameson was appointed Administrator of the territory.

In the meantime the pioneers, who had been disbanded after the arrival of the expedition at Salisbury, had scattered themselves over the country. Settlements were formed at various points, trading stores opened, and for a period of three years the colonisation of the country steadily progressed.

* British Bechuanaland has since been annexed to the Cape Colony.

† The Crown has since exercised this power, and has modified the original Charter by a Supplemental Charter. *Vide* p. 44 *infra*.

The first
Matabili
war, 1893.

The Matabili had for years been in the habit of periodically ravaging Mashonaland, and from the first insisted on their right to dispose of the lives and property of the Mashonas as they saw fit. Raids on Mashona kraals, entailing the massacre or enslavement of the inhabitants, were of frequent occurrence, but at first the vicinity of the European settlements was respected. The policy of the Company was to avoid hostilities, and with this view whenever difficulties arose with the Matabili conciliatory measures were adopted.

Among a fierce and warlike people conciliatory measures are apt to be misunderstood, and there is no doubt that the policy of the Company was attributed solely to weakness. As a result the insolence and aggression of the Matabili increased, white men were plundered and maltreated, and a post cart was stopped and robbed.

In July, 1893, an impi of Matabili, about 300 strong, after ravaging several Mashona kraals and massacring the inhabitants, entered the township of Victoria, and assailed some natives and servants of the settlers. The impi was driven off by the Company's Police, and messengers were sent to Lobengula to endeavour to effect a peaceful settlement. The King, however, returned a defiant answer, refusing to treat unless some Mashonas, who had taken refuge in Victoria, were first delivered to him, and massed a large body of men in the neighbourhood of Victoria.

It now became evident that war was inevitable, and preparations were made for the simultaneous invasion of Matabililand from two sides.

A column of the Bechuanaland Border Police, accompanied by a large force of Khama's natives, advanced from Tati, on the south, while the Company's Police, under Major Forbes's command, reinforced by volunteers and native levies, entered the country from the east. The Matabili were defeated in three engagements. Buluwayo was captured and burnt, and Lobengula fled to the north, where he afterwards died.

The complete success of the operations was marred by the unfortunate loss of Major Wilson and a party of 33 men, on the Shangani river. They formed part of a force sent in pursuit of Lobengula, but were cut off from the main body by the sudden rising of the river. While thus isolated they were attacked by an overwhelming force of Matabili, and, in spite of a most heroic resistance, perished to the last man.

The overthrow of Lobengula, and the consequent absorption of Matabililand into the Company's territory, exercised an immediate influence on the development of the country. Life and property were now secure, the subject native races were relieved from the constant terror of a Matabili raid, and an area of some 60,000 square miles was thrown open to European enterprise. Farms were pegged out in all directions, prospectors and traders flocked into the country, and a large and important township was laid out at Buluwayo.

Settlement
of Matabili-
land, 1894.

The increased area of the Company's territory, and the large addition to their native population, rendered it necessary to make fresh provisions for the administration of the country, and for the

safeguarding of native rights. After some discussion between Her Majesty's Government and the directors of the Company, an agreement for the future government both of Mashonaland and Matabililand was arrived at, and the details embodied in the Order in Council issued on the 18th July, 1894.

The principal points for which provision was made in this Order, called "The Matabeleland Order in Council, 1894," are as follows :—

1. The appointment of an Administrator and Council.
2. The enactment of Regulations having the force of law.
3. The establishment of a High Court and of Magistrates Courts.
4. The appointment of a Land Commission to deal with all questions relating to the settlement of the natives on the lands in Matabililand.

The future of the country now appeared secure, the Matabili power was supposed to be broken, an elaborate machinery of government had been introduced, the natives were apparently content, and the white settlers daily increasing in members. But in spite of this apparent tranquility the natives were in reality far from satisfied with the new order of things.

They were discontented with the settlement of the cattle question,* irritated by the high-handed conduct of the native

* *The Cattle Question.*—At the close of the Matabili War in 1893 the Company laid claim to all the cattle in the country on the ground that they were the property of the King, and proceeded to brand them with the Company's mark. The justice of this claim has been disputed. There is no doubt that the bulk of the cattle belonged to the King, but, on the other hand, it appears equally certain that a large number were the private property of individuals. There were no means of distinguishing between the two, and all were branded alike, but the natives were still allowed to retain the cattle in their possession and to use them for milking purposes.

Had matters remained thus, the natives would probably have been content; but a certain number of cattle were required for the Company's current uses, and these were obtained by drafts from the different kraals. The drafts were collected by the native police in an arbitrary manner, and the uncertainty of tenure which was engendered thereby caused much irritation. The natives saw themselves liable to be deprived at any moment of cattle which were necessary for their needs, and some of which they regarded as their own property.

In 1895 the Company decided to finally settle the question, and handed over to the natives, as their absolute property, a proportion of cattle calculated according to the size of their kraals. By this distribution the natives became possessed of about 40,000 head, the Company retaining the balance, some 30,000 head.

The distribution does not appear to have been carefully made. It is stated that while many natives were given cattle who had not previously possessed them, on the other hand many who according to native law were entitled to them were left without their full share.

Sir R. Martin, in his report on the question, says :—

"My opinion is that the fatal mistake made by the Company in claiming all cattle as the property of the King immediately after the war, and the uncertainty that must have existed in the native mind regarding the proprietorship of the cattle previous to the distribution, together with the irritation caused by the frequent drafts made by the native police, and finally the unsatisfactory division, could not fail to produce widespread discontent and distrust."

police, especially in regard to the supply of labour, and threatened with starvation by the combined ravages of drought, locusts, and rinderpest.

The Second
Matabili
war, 1896.

The state of the native mind during the interval between the defeat of Lobengula and the commencement of the rebellion is well described by Earl Grey in his report to the directors of the Company for the year 1896-97. It must be remembered that only three of Lobengula's regiments actually took part in the war of 1893, and that the bulk of the nation had never felt the power of the white man's arms.

Earl Grey says—

“It thus happened, that, although the whole nation would appear to have been completely stunned by the swift overthrow of their impis, and by the occupation of Buluwayo by Dr. Jameson, contact with the white man gradually modified the superstitious awe with which they had at first regarded the conquerors of Lobengula. It was remembered that the greater half of a nation of warriors, hitherto invincible, had never measured their strength with that of a white man, and many of the bolder spirits cherished the hope that opportunity alone was wanting to enable them to reconquer their country and to expel the white intruder. Although treated with great consideration by the Government; although no taxes were levied; and although every precaution was taken to prevent harassing and unnecessary interference by the white settlers; the fact remained that a warlike and hitherto unconquered people were daily reminded that they, the former lords of the earth, were now expected to wear the livery of inferiority, and to perform industrial duties which formerly they had exacted from their slaves.

“The discontent thus engendered was undoubtedly increased by the dissatisfaction caused by the absence of any head; by their unsatisfied desire for a king; and by the irritation caused through the overbearing action of the native police, the old men especially resented the indignity of being controlled by their “own dogs.”

“In spite of the natural tendency to revolt, produced by the above causes, the opinion of the authorities—missionaries as well as officials—was, that the nation accepted loyally the white man's rule, and that the steady and increasing influx of population rendered every day any chance of a native rising more and more remote; and no doubt this confidence would have been justified, had it not been for the extraordinary influence of the M'Limo* and the phenomenal combination of physical plagues, all attributed by him to the advent and continued presence of the white man.

“A drought, abnormal alike in its duration and intensity, had set in with the coming of Dr. Jameson and had continued ever since.

“The locusts, which, if they had been annual visitors, had never made their presence severely felt, now appeared in swarms that literally darkened the sky, devastating both the veld and the gardens of the country, and eating up the crops on which the

* For an account of the M'Limo superstition see Chapter VII.

natives depended for their food The simultaneous advent in Rhodesia of the white man and of swarms of locusts, of a kind unknown in the country for forty years, and much more destructive than the ordinary species, caused the locusts to be called by the Matabele "Tsintete za makiwa" (locusts of the white man).

"And as if these plagues were not sufficient, the rinderpest, an absolutely new and unknown disease, suddenly seized the cattle of the Matabele and mowed them down in herds. The action of the Government in shooting live and healthy cattle with the view of checking the spread of the disease, although explained to the natives, appeared to them more terrible and unaccountable than the rinderpest itself—'See,' they said, 'the white men are deceiving us; they first pretend to give us cattle, they then kill them, and they won't even allow us to eat them when killed. What greater proof can there be that they do not want us to live? Let us fight them; we would rather be killed than die of starvation.' And so it happened, that with the locusts, the drought, and the rinderpest to assist him, the M'Limo had little difficulty in working on the superstitious mind of the Matabele. 'Until the blood of the white man be spilt,' ran the M'Limo prophecy, 'there will be no rain.' When, therefore, the long overdue rains came down within a few days of Maddocks'* murder, on the 24th March, the M'Limo's teaching—that the drought, the locusts, and the rinderpest were all the gifts of the white man, who wished to kill them, and that, therefore, there was no hope for them till the white men themselves were killed—found ready acceptance among the natives, and in a certain section of Matabeleland became an article of faith."

Information obtained since the suppression of the rebellion clearly shows that the leaders of the movement had for a long time contemplated a revolt and were only waiting for a favourable opportunity. The opportunity was afforded by the withdrawal of the white police from the country.

Towards the end of 1895 the white police were removed to the Bechuanaland Protectorate and afterwards took part in Dr. Jameson's incursion into the South African Republic. Their defeat and surrender at Krugersdorp, in January, 1896, and their subsequent deportation to England, left the Company without any disciplined force.

These events were perfectly well known to the natives, who determined to seize the opportunity and reconquer their country. It was arranged that on a given day a sudden rush should be made on Buluwayo and the capture of that town followed by the massacre of the outlying settlers. Had this plan been carried out there is little doubt that the majority of the white inhabitants would have perished, but fortunately a premature revolt in some of the outlying districts gave timely warning to the townships and enabled them to organise their defences.

The first overt act of rebellion was the murder of a native policeman in the Inseza district on the 20th March, and was

* Thomas Maddocks, a prospector murdered at Filabusi.

followed by murders of whites in the Inseza, Filabusi and Gwelo districts. The rebellion spread rapidly, the majority of the native police deserted taking their rifles with them, and the outlying settlers were murdered on all sides.*

As soon as the serious nature of the revolt became known the settlers rose manfully to the occasion. Laagers were formed at Bulúwayo, Gwelo, Belingwe, Mangwe, and Tuli; volunteers were enrolled; patrols were sent out to relieve outlying posts; and the impis threatening Buluwyo defeated on several occasions with heavy loss.

Meanwhile arrangements for the organisation of a relief force were rapidly pushed on. A corps of volunteers was raised by Lieut.-Colonel Plumer at Mafeking, Imperial troops were despatched from Natal, and Major-General Sir F. Carrington sent out to command the operations.

The difficulties of the relief force were greatly increased by the scarcity of transport and supplies, but by the end of August the greater part of Matabililand was subdued. The rebels still held out in the Matoppos, but the severe losses they had suffered had convinced them of the futility of the struggle, and they were anxious for peace. Accordingly negotiations for their surrender were opened, and after a protracted delay were brought, through the influence of Mr. Rhodes, to a successful conclusion. The surrender being accomplished the relief force was broken up, the volunteers were disbanded, and the majority of the Imperial troops withdrawn from the country.

On the departure of Sir Frederick Carrington the Deputy Commissioner and Commandant General, Sir Richard Martin, assumed command of the forces, and at once proceeded to organise a new police force. This officer had been appointed early in 1896, in pursuance of the decision of Her Majesty's Government that the control of the Company's forces should in future be entrusted to an Imperial officer, but during the period in which Sir Frederick Carrington was in command his functions as Commandant General remained in abeyance.

While these events were occurring in Matabililand the rising had spread to Mashonaland. The outbreak there commenced in June, 1896, and necessitated the dispatch of a small column of Imperial troops to assist the volunteer forces raised by the Company. This column, which consisted chiefly of mounted infantry, under the command of Lieut.-Colonel Alderson, entered Mashonaland *via* the Beira route, and at once commenced active operations against the rebels. The principal chiefs having been subdued and their kraals destroyed, it was decided to withdraw the Imperial troops before the rains set in, and leave the further punishment of the rebels in the hands of the police. Accordingly in December the troops embarked at Beira and returned to Natal. Police operations in Mashonaland were continued until September, 1897, when the capture of Kagerbi (the Mashona witch doctor) finally put an end to the rebellion.

* The total number of murders of whites in Southern Rhodesia was 264.

The history of the rebellion furnishes a striking example of the dangers that may arise from reliance on the apparent submission of a savage and warlike race. Remarks on rebellion.

It is generally admitted that the first principles of the government of a conquered country includes the maintenance of an efficient Intelligence Department, and of an organised and mobile force; yet it was in consequence of the neglect of these principles that the opportunity for the rising was afforded.

The native Commissioners, it is true, were supposed to be in touch with the natives, and to supply the Administration with information as to the state of feeling in the country, but in this respect the department appears to have entirely failed to do its work. Rumours of an impending revolt were current for some time before the actual outbreak, but no credence was given to them, and no special precautions were taken. Granting that the natives are masters of the art of deceit, it is, nevertheless, difficult to understand how men, accustomed to deal with them and conversant with their language, not only failed to detect any sign of the unrest which undoubtedly existed, but even, when warned of its existence, refused altogether to believe in it.

It is, perhaps, unfair to lay on the Administration the entire blame for the absence of any organised force. Neither the officials nor the European inhabitants appear to have considered that the removal of the police by Dr. Jameson was a source of any danger to the country, and the delay in replacing the force is no doubt attributable to the political issues arising out of the Raid, and the uncertainty as to how far the future of the Company might be affected thereby. Absence of any organised force.

At the outset of the rebellion the chances of success were all in favour of the natives. The European population, scattered over the country, had no suspicion of the coming troubles, there were no white police, the majority of the cattle were dead, and the supplies of food in the towns were very limited. Had it not been for the want of combination among the rebels, the premature rising in the outlying districts, and the extraordinary folly of the priests of the M'Limbo in directing that the road to Mangwe should be left open, it is probable that few, if any, of the white inhabitants would have escaped.

As it was the timely warning given by the murders in the country districts enabled the townships to prepare their defences, and the energetic action of the settlers soon warded off all danger of an actual assault; but the question of food supplies became daily more important.

When the news of the first murders arrived there were in Buluwayo supplies sufficient to last the population for about two months, and the only route by which the stocks could be replenished was the long line of road running from the railhead at Mafeking through the Bechuanaland Protectorate to Buluwayo. The distance from Mafeking was nearly 600 miles, the road in bad order, and scantily supplied with water, and liable at any moment to be blocked by the rebels. Ox-transport had ceased to exist, and though a fair number of mule wagons were forthcoming, Scarcity of supplies.

the mules were in poor condition ; moreover, the carrying power of the mule-wagons was greatly diminished by the necessity of loading up grain to feed the mules on the journey.* At Buluwayo there was no system of storage or distribution of supplies, and consequently the waste was great.

Measures
taken to pre-
vent a recur-
rence of the
rebellion.

The probability of a future rising on any large scale is, no doubt, remote, but the experience gained in the late rebellion has shown that, to ensure the safety of the white population, and the crushing at the outset of any symptoms of revolt, the following precautions are necessary.

1. To maintain an adequate Police Force.
2. To provide an efficient Native Intelligence Department.
3. To prevent the natives congregating in the Matoppo Hills.
4. To improve the communications.
5. To maintain an organised system of supply and transport.

The above measures have all been carried out ; a force of 1,100 white and 300 native police is maintained in the territory ; the Native Department has been thoroughly reorganised, its officials carefully selected, and an Intelligence Department, composed of natives drawn chiefly from Zululand, has been instituted ; the Matoppo Hills are occupied by a series of forts garrisoned by the police ; the railway has been extended to Buluwayo and the construction of the section between Umtali and Salisbury is being rapidly pushed on ; lastly, an efficient supply and transport service has been organised under the supervision of a trained Imperial officer.

Whilst carrying out these precautionary measures the Company have not been unmindful of the wants and grievances of the natives ; on the contrary, they have used every effort to satisfy their just claims and render them contented with their lot. A proportion of the chiefs have been invested with modified powers and appointed to act as a medium of communication between the natives and the native Commissioners ; the natives themselves have been encouraged to return to the kraals and to cultivate their gardens ; rich tracts of land have been secured from private owners for their location ; and food and seed have been liberally distributed.

This generous treatment, coupled with the severe lesson they have received, is undoubtedly producing a good result, and the attitude of the natives since their surrender has been one of absolute submission. By the adoption of a wise and sound native policy by which native interests are safeguarded and proper supervision maintained without unnecessary interference with their habits and customs, the Administration hope "in time to produce those industrious habits which are so essential to civilisation, and also to meet the reasonable requirements of the white population."†

* Mules require at least 6 lbs. of grain per diem ; therefore a span of 14 would consume on the 30 days' journey between Mafeking and Buluwayo 2,520 lbs., while the total load of a mule wagon was only about 4,500 lbs. As time went on stocks of grain to feed the mules were laid down on the road.

† "B.S.A. Company's Report," 1896-97.

Further Modifications of the Constitution.

Dr. Jameson's raid and the subsequent events which led up to the rebellion convinced the Imperial Government of the desirability of so modifying the existing arrangements as to legislation and administration in Southern Rhodesia that the control of the High Commissioner might not only be made more direct, but might also be based upon full information obtained locally through an Imperial officer specially appointed for that purpose. The Company also were anxious to meet the demand of the inhabitants for a voice in the management of their affairs, and accordingly, in the early part of 1898, proposals for the attainment of these objects were formulated by the Secretary of State.

These proposals have resulted in the issue of a Supplementary Charter and of an Order in Council, the effect of which has been to establish the existing system of administration described in the following chapter

CHAPTER VIII.

INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION.

Districts. FOR purposes of administration, Southern Rhodesia is divided as follows :—

Mashonaland into 13 districts, viz. :—

Charter, Hartley, Lo Magundi, Makoni, Mangwendi, Mazoe, Melsetter, M'tibi, Sabi, Salisbury, Umtali, Victoria, Matoko.

Matabililand into 11 :—

Belingwe, Bubi, Bulalema, Buluwayo, Gwanda, Gwelo, Mafunga Busi, Mangwe, Sebungu, Tuli, Wankie.

The administrative system of the territory is based on the provisions of the Order in Council of 9th May, subsequently revised in the Orders in Council of 30th July, 1891, and 20th October, 1898.

The last named provides that the Government of the territory shall be conducted by the Company through one or more administrators, assisted by an executive council and such other officers as may from time to time be necessary. When there is more than one Administrator, the Company, with the approval of the Secretary of State, determines their relative precedence.

**The Admin-
istrators.**

The administrators are appointed by the Company with the approval of the Secretary of State, and hold office for a term of three years, but may be re-appointed from time to time for a similar term. They are removable by the Secretary of State or by the Company with the Secretary of State's approval.

**Resident
Commis-
sioner.**

The Secretary of State is also empowered to appoint a Resident Commissioner who takes rank immediately below the Administrator, and is *ex officio* member of both the Executive and Legislative Councils, but without a vote. He is paid out of Imperial funds, and his duty is to keep the High Commissioner fully informed of all matters of administrative importance, and report on all ordinances and appointments submitted for his approval. He is not eligible for appointment as Acting Administrator.

**Executive
Council.**

To assist the Administrator an Executive Council has been formed consisting of the Resident Commissioner, every Administrator other than the senior, and not less than four members appointed by the Company with the approval of the Secretary of State. The members hold office for three years, and are eligible for re-appointment. The Administrator summons the Council and presides at its meetings.

He takes its advice on all matters of importance affecting the administration of affairs. If he acts contrary to its advice he

reports forthwith to the Company stating the reasons for his action.

The Company may reverse the Administrator's action.

The Legislative Council is composed (under the presidency of **Legislative Council.** the senior Administrator) of the Administrators, Resident Commissioner, and nine other members, of whom five are nominated and four elected. The term of office of these members lasts for three years.

The five "nominated members" are appointed by the Company with the approval of the Secretary of State, and take precedence of the four "elected members."

The area of the electoral districts is fixed by the High Commissioner; franchise is granted to all British subjects paying a rental of £75 per annum or receiving £50 a year in wages, provided that the elector can sign his name and state in writing his occupation and place of residence. No "race" qualification is required.

The Council must be convoked at least once a year; its duration, unless sooner dissolved, is three years.

The following circumstances constitute disqualification in candidates for the Council:—(i) Having been declared bankrupt, (ii) having within five years been convicted and sentenced to imprisonment without option of fine, (iii) not being a British subject by birth or naturalisation.

Legislative ordinances are made by the Administrator with **Ordinances.** the consent of the Legislative Council, and submitted, together with a report thereon by the Resident Commissioner, to the High Commissioner, for his assent or disallowance. Without such assent no ordinance can take effect. An ordinance may also be subsequently disallowed by the Secretary of State.

Any part of an ordinance which is repugnant to an Order made by Her Majesty in Council is void.

Fiscal votes are proposed to the Legislative Council only by the Administrator, acting under instruction from the Company.

Police.

The Military Police force is under the direct control of the Police. High Commissioner, the officer exercising chief command, styled "Commandant-General," and the subordinate officers being appointed by the Secretary of State.

The duty of the Commandant-General is to preserve the peace; he may take no action of the nature of warlike operations without the authority of the High Commissioner or Resident Commissioner.

The numbers of the Military Police Force cannot be reduced without the sanction of the High Commissioner.

Judicial.

The High Court of Southern Rhodesia has full jurisdiction, **High Court.** civil and criminal, over all persons and matters within Southern Rhodesia.

Judges of the High Court are paid by the Company, and appointed by the Secretary of State, on the nomination of the Company.

A sentence of death must be confirmed by the High Commissioner, who may remit or commute such sentence.

In civil matters, when the amount in dispute exceeds £100 value, an appeal lies to the Supreme Court of Cape Colony.

In criminal matters a similar appeal is permitted on certain points, principally with reference to alleged illegality or irregularity in procedure.

Magistrates' Courts.

Magistrates' Courts have jurisdiction over all persons in districts assigned to them. Magistrates are appointed by the Administrator, with the approval of the High Commissioner, subject to confirmation of the Secretary of State.

Law.

The law administered by the Courts is the law in force in Cape Colony on the 10th of June, 1891, except so far as it may have been modified by local enactment. In civil cases between natives the Courts recognise native law, so far as that law is not repugnant to natural justice or morality.

Native Administration.

The administration of natives is carried out under the orders of the Administrator in Council, who appoints or removes chiefs, and divides or subdivides Southern Rhodesia into districts, subject, however, to the approval of the High Commissioner. The Secretary for Native Affairs is the principal executive officer for native affairs; under him work a Chief Native Administrator for each province and a Native Commissioner for each district. The latter officials control the natives through their Tribal Chiefs and Headmen, and are assisted by detachments of native messengers. The Tribal Chiefs hold office during pleasure and contingent on good behaviour. They receive pay, and are responsible generally for the good conduct of the natives under their charge. Reserves of land are assigned to the natives by the Government.

Supplemental Charter.

The Supplemental Charter will formally modify the powers conferred on the Company by the original Charter, in the following particulars:—

1. The power of making ordinances ceases to rest with the Company from the date of the assembly of the Legislative Council for Southern Rhodesia.

2. The Company is not authorised to establish or maintain any force of military police.

3. The Secretary of State has authority to suspend, cancel, or amend all resolutions and other proceedings of the Board of Directors relating to the administration of the Company's territories, and is further empowered to dismiss any director or other official of the Company for non-compliance with the provisions of the Charters.

CHAPTER IX.

FINANCE.

THE whole of the expenses connected with the administration and pacification of the country have been defrayed by the British South Africa Company, and the balance of expenditure over receipts is at present estimated to be about £6,000,000.*

The principal sources of revenue are Postal and Telegraph Revenue Services, Transfer Duties, Licenses, Quit Rents, and Hut Tax. and expenditure. Large sums have also been realised by the sale of stands, but receipts from this source can scarcely be treated as revenue, and have therefore been omitted in the following calculations.

The ordinary expenditure is comprised under the heads of Administrative and Judicial Establishments, Postal and Telegraph Services, Police, Hospitals, and Public Works. The enormous increase for the years 1895-96 and 1896-97, is due to charges connected with the rinderpest and the rebellion.

Year ending	Revenue.	Expenditure (a).
	£	£
31st March, 1895	65,836	142,423
„ 1896	187,414	213,274
„ 1897	116,356	2,517,706
„ 1898	196,653	Not yet known.

(a) These figures show the expenditure in Southern Rhodesia, and do not include the expenses of the London and Cape Town offices of the Company.

CHAPTER X.

MONEY, WEIGHTS, AND MEASURES.

IMPERIAL coins, weights, and measures are commonly used, but sovereigns coined by the South African Republic also pass.

Grain, potatoes, &c., are generally sold by the muid.

1 muid = 3 imperial bushels.

Land is measured by the morgen.

1 morgen = 2.116 English acres.

For railway purposes the ton is calculated at 2,000 lbs.

Stamps.

Stamps of a special design are issued by the British South Africa Company, both for postal and revenue services.

CHAPTER XI.

ARMED FORCES, POLICE, &c.

THE whole of the armed forces in the territory, both police and volunteers, as well as all arms and ammunition belonging to the Company are under the control of the Commandant-General of the British South Africa Police. This officer is appointed by the Imperial Government, and directly responsible to the High Commissioner, but all expenses connected with the equipment and maintenance of the defensive forces are borne by the Company.

European Police.

Two divisions of the British South Africa Police,* styled respectively the 2nd or Mashonaland Division, and the 3rd or Matabililand Division, are stationed in Southern Rhodesia, their establishment being as follows:—†

Division.	Number of troops.	Officers.	N.C. officers and men.	Horses.	Field guns (a).	Machine guns (b).	Total all ranks.	Armament of corps.
Staff	—	3	—	4	—	—	3	L.M. rifles and bayonets. M.H. rifles and bayonets.
Mashonaland ...	5	19	500	375	6	9	519	
Matabililand ...	6	23	600	450	7	17	623	
Total ...	11	45	1100	829	13	26	1145	

(a) The pattern of these guns is not known, but they are comprised in the list of artillery in possession of the Company given below. See p. 50.

(b) 450 Maxim	...	...	...	...	...	15
303 "	...	...	...	...	...	6
Gatling	...	...	...	...	...	2
Nordenfelt	...	...	...	...	...	2
Gardner	...	...	...	...	...	1
Maxim-Nordenfelt, 1-pr.	...	...	...	...	...	1

* The British South Africa Police consists of three divisions.

No. 1 is stationed in the Bechuanaland Protectorate.

† "Annual Report, B.S.A. Police," 1898.

The period of engagement for N.C. officers and troopers is for two years, and the rate of pay is from 9s. per diem for a Regimental Sergeant-Major to 5s. for a trooper. One shilling per diem of these rates is deferred pay. N.C. officers and troopers receive an extra 6d. per diem, after the second year's service, on re-engaging; after three years they receive an extra shilling. Rations, clothing, equipment, saddlery, horses, and forage are supplied without charge, and an allowance of 2s. 6d. per diem is granted when rations are not supplied.

The forts and stations occupied by the British South African Police in Southern Rhodesia are as follows :—

Matabililand Division.

Forts.	Stations.
Manzinyama.	Buluwayo.
Geelong.	Gwelo.
Tuli.	
Ingwenia.	
Kwekwe.	
Filabusi.	
Belingwe.	
Balla Balla.	
Rixon's.	
M'patene.	
Inyati.	
Solusi.	
Fig Tree.	
Tessebe.	
Mangwe.	
Shiloh.	
Mkanine.	
Ussher.	
Umchabez.	
Inugu.	
Umlugulu.	
Iron Mine Hill.	
Shangani.	
Selukwe.	

Mashonaland Division.

Forts.	Stations.
Hartley.	Salisbury (depôt).
Martin.	Bromley,
Lomagundi.	Headlands.
Mazoe.	Umtali (Old).
Umrewas.	Umtali (New).
Kunzi,	Gungunhana.
Chiquaqua.	Panhalonga.
Marendellas.	Melsetter.
Devil's Pass.	Charter,

Forts.
Victoria.
Lesapi.

Stations.
Enkeldoorn.
Makowries.
Chilokwe.
Chisawasha.
Norton's.
Gutus.

The police at Salisbury, Buluwayo, and Umtali (Old) are housed in barracks; at out stations they are accommodated in huts. Barracks.

*Native Police and Messengers.**

District.	Officers (European).	N.C. officers and men (natives).	Total.	Armament.
Mashonaland native police (a)	5	300	305	Martini-Henry rifles. } Knobkerries and assegais.
Mashonaland mes- sengers	—	211	211	
Matabililand mes- sengers	—	158	158	
	5	669	674	

(a) These police are not natives of either Mashonaland or Matabililand, but have been enlisted in Northern Rhodesia.

Municipal Police.

There is a small force of municipal police, both Europeans and natives, in the principal towns, but they are not armed with rifles.

Volunteers and Burghers.

The Burgher Law of the Cape Colony Act, No. 7, of 1878, being in force in the territory, the male inhabitants are liable, in case of emergency, to be enrolled for its defence. The estimated number of men who could thus be obtained is at present about 2,200, but will probably soon reach a much higher figure.

Rifle clubs have been formed at Buluwayo, Salisbury, and Umtali, the members amounting to about 280 men, but a more systematic organisation of a volunteer force is now being instituted, and a commandant of volunteers has been appointed under the orders of the Commandant-General.

Artillery.

The artillery in the territory consists of 13 guns of various patterns, made up as follows:—

* The messengers are attached to the Native Commissioners' offices.

Description of gun.	No.	Mounting.
2·5-inch 7-pr. R.B.L.	1	Mountain.
" " R.M.L.	3	
3-inch " "	6	Field.
Maxim-Nordenfelt 75 mm. Q.F. 12½-pr.	1	"
Hotchkiss Q.F. 1-pr.	1	"
3-inch 7-pr. R.M.L.	1	Naval.
13		

Reserve of Arms and Ammunition.

The Company possesses about 1,000 spare rifles and some 2,000,000 rounds of small-arm ammunition. The artillery ammunition on charge exceeds 3,000 rounds.

Intelligence Department.

The native police and native messengers attached to the native Commissioners' offices could, with the assistance of those officers, be organised in case of war into an efficient Intelligence Department.

CHAPTER XI.

NATIVE TACTICS, METHODS EMPLOYED AGAINST THEM
ARMAMENT, &c.*Matabili.*

ONE of the most noticeable features in the late rebellion was the radical alteration in the tactics adopted by the Matabili. The heavy losses which they suffered in the war of 1893 convinced them of the comparative uselessness of the assegai, and of the futility of attempting to meet modern weapons in the old close formations of the Zulus. With a skill born of a natural aptitude for war, which is all the more remarkable when we remember that they had no opportunity for drill or practice, they abandoned their old traditions and adopted the tactics of their enemies. Avoiding the attack of fortified posts they fought in skirmishing order under cover of the bush, and relied almost entirely on the power of their fire-arms.

Mashona.

The Mashona are undoubtedly inferior to the Matabili, both in physique and courage, and, except when opportunities for an ambush presented themselves, rarely attacked our forces. Their defensive positions consist chiefly of fortified kopjes honeycombed with caves connected by internal passages, and generally well supplied with water.

The following account of these strongholds, and of the methods employed to capture them, is extracted from a report drawn up by Major and Brevet Lt.-Colonel the Hon. F. E. De Moleyns, D.S.O., 4th Hussars, late Commandant Mashonaland Division, B. S. A. Police:—

“After the operations in 1896, the natives had withdrawn from all their kraals in the open country, and were living in fortified kraals close to their caves, in which they had stored their loot and most of their grain.

“The huts were protected by one or more strong stockades or loop-holed walls, often by both; and the passages from the huts to the caves blocked by walls, thorns, &c.

“I had learnt by experience that it was no use to attack the kraals, capture them, kill a few natives, and retire, leaving them in possession of their caves; they thought they had the best of it, and in a fortnight's time the huts and stockades would be rebuilt as well as ever.

“It was necessary to keep them in the caves until they could be killed or captured, and never to leave a stronghold as long as a single cave was holding out. . . .

‘ The usual method of attack was as follows :—

“ A separate wagon and a light two wheeled cart told off for dynamite, fuze, tools, rope, ladders, &c. (detonators carried separate).

“ Moonlight nights were chosen, if possible, and the colder the weather the better, as the Mashona cannot stand watching all night in cold. I always tried to time my marches so as to reach a point from 10 to 15 miles from the place to be attacked at the end of a morning trek, that is about 9 A.M. (we usually marched from 6 A.M. to 9 A.M., and from 2.30 P.M. to 5.30 P.M.).

“ Get guides if possible, they may not know the exact position of the kraal and caves, but they are always useful.

“ As little “ reconnoitring ” as possible should be done : it only tells the natives you are coming, and a small party can seldom get near enough to the actual stronghold to do any good.

“ Having arrived by the morning trek 10 or 15 miles from the place :—

“ If you think your movement is unknown to the natives rest quietly till night. If you think they have detected you, if possible make a short afternoon trek of, say 5 miles, and settle down in laager, as if for the night. Make all arrangements for the attack before dark ; and if you don’t move off till late at night, make the men sleep in some formation handy for moving off in single file.

“ No one to be mounted except C.O. and minimum staff.

“ If moving (as was usual) along a native path for the last few miles, no other formation but single file is possible, until close to the place to be attacked.

“ Do not deploy and try to surround it. Go straight for it in a handy column formation, and get round it as soon as the head of the column strikes it.

“ Flank guards are impossible at night if you want to go quietly. Advanced guard not more than 40 yards ahead, to consist of a couple of selected officers with half a dozen picked natives, who are in charge of guides, if any. *No talking, no smoking.*

“ Necessary pack animals, guns, and maxims to follow in rear with a guard, out of earshot of the head of the column.

“ Try to reach a point under cover half a mile to a quarter of a mile from the stronghold, as dawn begins to show, and form for the attack at the halt in perfect silence.

“ I formed column of troops (single rank, each troop about 20 front) whenever possible ; it is handy, and, if the head is checked, the 2nd and 3rd troops can move up in a minute and open fire. I always put the Native Contingent at the head of the column with about twenty picked white men at the head of them.

“ March straight up to the stockade in perfect silence, and without firing a shot, unless fired at. Fire a volley through it into the huts at 20 or 30 yards range, and then climb or break down the stockade, and allow rapid independent fire until the kraal is taken and the natives driven into the caves.

"Do not allow the huts to be set on fire, it causes confusion, and the natives in the caves are very quick to take advantage of smoke.

"By this time you will have had some men hit, and things will be confused.

"Sound 'cease fire,' make everyone take cover, and post strong picquets all round the caves (at Mashingombi's, near Hartley, the circle of picquets was, I estimate, 130 yards in diameter, and we had 130 men on picquet by day, and nearly 200 by night). If any natives have been seen on neighbouring kopjes, the 7-pounders and maxims with their guard look after them. Scouts should be sent out all round.

"Rest and breakfast.

"Slowly and carefully close the circle of picquets in on the cave-mouths, replying steadily to the natives' fire.

"It is often necessary to bring a heavy fire on a particular cave-mouth to enable a picquet to push forward and get under cover near it.

"After some time (say 2 to 4 hours), command of fire is obtained over the caves, and the actual mouths of some will have been located (this is difficult, as they are generally covered by bush, which the natives take care not to destroy.)

"The dynamite is then brought up, and put in a safe, handy place where fuzes, &c. are prepared, and is issued as wanted. A light charge (a bully beef tin was used), with not more than 20 seconds fuze, must first be got into the hole selected, a sharp fire being kept up on it until the last moment possible. The natives often pull out the fuze, so several tins must be loaded ready.

"The instant the bully beef tin goes off, a large charge must be rushed up before the natives can recover, and put at the mouth of the hole. It need not be put far in.

"Two 50 lb. cases was the usual charge, but we several times used six or eight at once. Fuze about one minute. Everyone must get away at least 60 yards and get under rocks, &c. People in the open are not safe nearer than 300 yards.

"This sort of thing lasted from three to five days and nights at each place, the difficulty was to prevent them slipping away at night, that is why a moon is so useful.

"At night the sentries must be double, and seldom more than 15 yards apart, with their picquets close behind them, and no fires can be allowed. They must be visited very often; ammunition must not be spared, and bugle marches should be played, and if they cheer at intervals, it is a good thing. But in spite of everything we could do, a few always managed to get through.

"The Mashona fought us in this way at three separate strongholds, at all of which we were completely successful, capturing 1,400 men, women, and children, and killing, say, 300 men."

Armament of Natives.

The large number of firearms, both rifles and muzzle-loading guns, possessed by the rebels caused considerable surprise, and it

was noticeable that their supplies of ammunition never ran short. There is little doubt that they had been hoarding up their weapons since the first occupation, with a view of some day attempting the reconquest of their country, and had been continually adding to their stock of ammunition. Selous estimates that, at the outbreak of the rebellion, the Matabili alone possessed at least 2,000 Martini-Henry rifles; the majority of these had probably been in their hands since 1893, but it is to be feared that some of them had been supplied by unscrupulous traders. Their supply of ammunition was also increased by the thoughtlessness of some of the settlers, who had been in the habit of using cartridges as a substitute for money.

A large number of firearms have been surrendered since the suppression of the rebellion, but the returns do not state what proportion of them are rifles, and it is probable that the majority are old muzzle-loading guns.

Fire-arms surrendered to 31st December, 1897.

Matabililand	...	...	2842
Mashonaland	...	...	1923

APPENDIX I.

BOOKS OF REFERENCE CONSULTED.

Name of Book.	Author.
Ten Years North of the Orange River... ..	Mackenzie.
Travel and Adventure in South-East Africa	Selous.
Sunshine and Storm in Rhodesia	"
Rhodesia of To-Day	Knight.
In New South Africa	Tangye.
The Matabele Campaign, 1896	Baden Powell.
An Irregular Corps in Matabeleland	Plumer.
With Plumer in Matabeleland	Sykes.
With the Mounted Infantry and the Mashonaland Field Force	Alderson.
On the Threshold of Central Africa	Coillard.
Historical Geography of the British Colonies... ..	Lucas.
Official Handbook of the Cape and South Africa	Noble.
Great Explorers of Africa	Unknown.
Argus Annual	"
Argus Handbook of Rhodesia	"
British South Africa Company's Reports, 1892-97	"
Colonial Office List	Mercer and Collins.
<i>Official Papers.</i>	
Parliamentary Papers, 1884-99.	
Operations in Southern Rhodesia, 1896.	
Reports by various Officers on Operations of 1896.	

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